

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECDEF

SECSTATE WASHDC 2124

INFO CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

CHJUSMAGG

COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS

USNFSO ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0154

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: SOUDA AB AGREEMENT AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 252138

1. IN JANUARY 7 MEETING BETWEEN COMFAIRMED AND MG KOTSOLAKIS, DEPUTY CHIEF HAFC, FORMER TABLED U.S. POSITIONS ON PREVIOUSLY-DEFERRED SUBSTANTIVE ARTICLES OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS POSITIONS ON OTHER ARTICLES ALSO PROVIDED IN REFTEL. CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT WAS EXPRESSED BY KOTSOLAKIS, WHO STATED THAT HAFC WAS UNABLE TO NEGOTIATE ON MOST OF ARTICLES. HE SUGGESTED U.S. NEGOTIATORS SUBMIT ALL DESIRED CHANGES IN WRITING FOR HAFC REFERRAL TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. COMPROMISES APPEARED POSSIBLE ON A FEW ARTICLES, AND AUTHORITY FOR SUCH COMPROMISES BEING SOUGHT FROM DEPARTMENTS THROUGH U.S. NAVY CHANNELS. EMBASSY BELIEVES SUCH COMPROMISES ARE REASONABLE AND RECOMMENDS APPROVAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS ACTION ON COMPROMISE PROPOSALS,
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U.S. NAVY NEGOTIATORS WILL PROVIDE TO HAFC CLEAN DRAFT

OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT INCORPORATING (A) ALL CHANGES AGREED UP TO NOW, (B) COMPROMISE LANGUAGE ON CERTAIN ARTICLES, AND (C) U.S. POSITION ON SUBSTANTIVE ARTICLES. THIS DRAFT WITH COVER LETTER WILL BE RESUBMISSION SUGGESTED BY KOTSOLAKIS.

3. RECENT DISCUSSIONS BY CHIEF JUSMAGG WITH LT. GEN. PAPANICOLAOU, CHIEF HAF, AND GEN. BONANOS, CINCHFOR, WERE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO ASSESS FIRMNESS OF HAF DEMANDS FOR EXTENSIVE MODERNIZATION OF GREEK AIRCRAFT INVENTORY IN EXCHANGE FOR HAF COOPERATION IN EXPANDED USN USE OF GREEK AIRFIELDS AND EXTENT OF SUPPORT FOR SAME AT HIGHER LEVELS. SOME PROGRESS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE IN BRINGING REALITIES OF SITUATION TO ATTENTION OF GREEK MILITARY LEADERS, ALTHOUGH PAPANICOLAOU CONTINUES TO REHEARSE HIS CASE FOR ANY LISTENER. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT CREDIT FOR PURCHASES OF A4C'S MIGHT BE ONLY ROUTE OPEN FOR IMMEDIATE MODERNIZATION OF HAF. ALTHOUGH PAPANICOLAOU STILL MENTIONS A-6'S AND A-7'S, HE IS NO LONGER REJECTING A4C'S OUT OF HAND. BONANOS CERTAINLY SUPPORTING HAF IN ITS QUEST FOR MODERN AIRCRAFT AND SUPPORT OF PM AND DEFMIN ALSO REPORTED.

4. COMFAIRMED DISCUSSED WITH LT. GEN. PAPANICOLAOU AND MG KOTSOLAKIS IMPENDING HAF-IMPOSED DEADLINE (CURRENTLY JAN. 15) BY WHICH U.S. NAVY WAS ENJOINED TO SIGN GOG VERSION OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT ON PENALTY OF HAVING TO LIVE WITHIN TERMS OF 1959 SOUDA AB AGREEMENT. FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED (ALTHOUGH WITHOUT PARTICULAR PROGRESS, NOTED KOTSOLAKIS) CITED AS ONE REASON WHY SUCH ACTION DID NOT MAKE SENSE. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED OTHER APPROACHES AT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY LEVEL IN ORDER TO FORESTALL ACTION WHICH WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING FOR GOG.

5. FROM TENOR OF REMAZKS BY KOTSOLAKIS, AND IN VIEW OF TIME OTHER STAFFING/CLEARING OPERATIONS HAVE TAKEN GREEK MILITARY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TRANSLATION, STAFFING AND CONSIDERYTION BY GREEK SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL WILL TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT OF U.S. REDRAFT OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT.

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